

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Objections

Claims 8-20 have been renumbered 20-32. Previous claim 20 (now 32) has been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

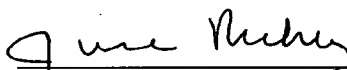
Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 20-32 were rejected under 35U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Benzing (WO 00/51810). Applicant respectfully disagrees for the following reasons. Claims 1,6,23, and 24 all have the following method step neither taught nor described in the Benzing reference: positioning the cutting edge of the cutting device at a gap distance (d) above the anvil slightly less than or equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component. Benzing teaches cutting the strip at a skive angle down to a depth (d) wherein d is defined in the specification on page 10, line 2-3 as being less than the total depth or thickness t of the strip. Thus, Benzing does not teach nor disclose positioning the cutting edge at a distance d above the anvil wherein d is defined as being slightly less than or equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component.

Additionally, Applicant's claims 1 and 6 further state :cutting the strip at a skive angle **while** impacting a cord of the cord reinforced component, lifting said cord over the cutting edge as the strip is being cut forming a segment, the impacted cord being at a cut end adjacent the cutting path. Thus Applicant's strip is cut into a segment in a one step process, while Benzing teaches a two step cutting process using two different cutting devices at different times in order to cut the strip into a segment. Further, Benzing teaches a second cutting device 122 (at a high skive angle, approx 90 degrees) used to cut between the cords. Finally, Benzing does not teach nor describe impacting a cord of the cord reinforced component, lifting said cord over the cutting edge as the strip is being cut forming a segment, the impacted cord being at a cut end adjacent the cutting path. Instead, Benzing teaches cutting between two cords.

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In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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